

Current as of: 03/25/1999

SUBJECT: VIETNAM-ERA UNACCOUNTED FOR STATISTICAL REPORT

1. **BACKGROUND:** The Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service, and the Department of State report the current numbers of Americans who are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia:

Figure 1
AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

| <u>COMPONENT</u> | <u>COUNTRY OF LOSS</u> | | | | | TOTALS |
|------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | VN | VS | LA | CB | CH | |
| ARMY | 10 | 498 | 110 | 35 | 0 | 653 |
| NAVY | 285 | 92 | 28 | 3 | 8 | 416 |
| MARINE CORPS | 26 | 203 | 22 | 14 | 0 | 265 |
| AIR FORCE | 235 | 165 | 272 | 17 | 0 | 689 |
| COAST GUARD | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CIVILIANS | 0 | 22 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 39 |
| TOTALS | 556 | 981 | 444 | 74 | 8 | 2063 * |

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH

VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH

LA = LAOS

CB = CAMBODIA

CH = CHINA

* INCLUDES 468 AT SEA/OVER WATER LOSSES

2. **ACCOUNTING FOR U.S. PERSONNEL:** The Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii reports that since 1973, the U.S. has accounted for 520 Americans from Southeast Asia.

Figure 2
AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR POST-1973

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| VIETNAM | 384 | * |
| CHINA | 2 | ** |
| LAOS | 127 | |
| CAMBODIA | 7 | |
| TOTAL | 520 | *** |

NOTES:

* 34 remains from the Official Died in Captivity Lists provided by the Vietnamese in 1973.

** 2 ashes returned from China.

*** 4 remains were recovered and turned over to the U.S. by indigenous personnel; 1 from North Vietnam and 3 from Laos. They are included in the country count.

3. **U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS:** Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, the U.S. Government has acquired 21,350 reports possibly pertaining to Americans in Southeast Asia:

Figure 3
SUMMARY OF REPORTS

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| FIRSTHAND LIVE SIGHTINGS | 1,900 |
| HEARSAY SIGHTINGS REPORTS | 4,661 |
| CRASH/GRAVE SITES | 5,125 |
| DOGTAGS | 9,664 |
| TOTAL | 21,350 |

- a. Of the 1,900 firsthand reports received since 1975, 1,832 (96.42%) reports are resolved.
 - 1,283 (67.53%) reports were equated to Americans who are accounted for (i.e., PW returnees, missionaries, civilians jailed at various times for violation of Vietnamese codes).
 - 45 (2.37%) reports were correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sighting of civilians who remain unaccounted for.
 - 504 (26.53%) reports were determined to be fabrications.
- b. The remaining 68 (3.58%) unresolved firsthand reports represent the focus of the U.S. Government analytical and collection efforts:
 - 60 (3.16%) pertain to Americans reported in a captive environment.
 - 8 (0.42%) reported sightings of Americans in a non-captive environment (i.e. working as truck drivers; married with Vietnamese family).
- c. The following timeline presents an overview of unresolved firsthand sightings by the year of the sighting:

Figure 4
TIMELINE: UNRESOLVED LIVE SIGHTING REPORTS

| Pre-76 | 76-80 | 81-85 | 86-90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | Total |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| 45 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 68 |